

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 8 has been cancelled, while claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 8.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,026,072 to Taira et al. in view of Japanese Patent Application No. JP02078031A to Onishi et al. The Examiner has further rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taira et al. in view of Onishi et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,661,415 to Yasuda et al. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taira et al. in view of Onishi et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,609,813 to Cohen. Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected claim 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taira et al. in view of Onishi et al., and further in view of Japanese Patent Application No. JP61-248253 to Morimoto. Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has found claim 8 allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above changes, Applicants believe that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections have been overcome.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1-7, 9 and 10, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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